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different diseases which attack any particular plant are grouped together. The numerous illustrations are in general satisfactory. In some cases, as in that of *Phyllactinia suffulta*, they might be improved. The last hundred pages give the scientific descriptions of the fungi treated on previous pages. The *Text-Book* is one which will prove valuable to the student of plant diseases, and to the specialist it is important, since the diseases mentioned are not confined to those of Europe and North America, but include a large number of tropical diseases with regard to which the literature is scattered and often inaccessible. Whether the aim of the author, which, as stated in the preface, is to enable those directly occupied in the cultivation of plants, and with but a limited period of time available for study, to determine the nature of diseases caused by vegetable parasites, is likely to be accomplished seems to us doubtful. The general account of fungi, although good as far as it goes, does not give sufficient information as to the characters of the different orders of fungi and of their relation to each other to enable one who has not already some special knowledge of mycology to follow clearly the descriptions of the different diseases. The work, it seems to us, is adapted rather to those who already have some knowledge of systematic mycology, such as persons connected with agricultural schools and experiment stations, and for them the work is a valuable one.

Hough's American Woods.¹—Part VIII of this unique series of sections of our native woody plants contains west American species of which, perhaps, the most unexpected are the castor bean, tree tobacco, mission cactus, and desert palm. The remainder of the species, however, are of more than usual interest, and one, the Christmas berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), presents a graining of rare beauty. The descriptive text is preceded by useful flower, foliage, and fruit keys to all of the species thus far represented in the publication.

Notes.—A considerable illustrated paper on the anatomy of *Cardiandra plicata* is contributed by Henri Micheels to the current volume of the *Mémoires* of the Société Royale des Sciences de Liège.

¹ Hough, Romeyn B. *The American Woods*, exhibited by actual specimens and with copious explanatory text. Pt. viii representing twenty-five species by twenty-five sets of sections. 8vo, viii + 66 pp. Cards of sections, 176–200. Lowville, N. Y., 1899.

Loesener has issued in separate form a paper entitled "*Plantæ Selerianæ*, die von Dr. Eduard Seler und Frau Caecilie Seler in Mexico und Centralamerika gesammelten Pflanzen," reprinted from recent numbers of the *Bulletin* of the Boissier Herbarium.

In a recently published address delivered in November, 1898, before the University of Catania, Professor P. Baccarini discusses the character and history of the Mediterranean flora.

Productive activity in the biological departments of most of the greater institutions of learning is becoming manifest in the increasing publication of the results of research work in the form of "contributions" and the like. The latest of these is the *Meddelanden från Stockholms Högskolas Botaniska Institute*, of which the first volume, for 1898, contains ten papers dealing with a variety of botanical subjects. Professor Lagerheim has done well for the preservation of these papers in binding them together with a collective titlepage and table of contents.

The very active botanical garden at Buitenzorg has recently commenced the publication of a new *Bulletin de l'Institut Botanique de Buitenzorg*, the first number of which contains interesting data on the organization and work of the garden.

An interesting catalogue of the trees and shrubs in the arboretum and botanic garden at the Central Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, Canada, is published by Dr. Saunders and Mr. W. T. Macoun as *Bulletin 2*, second series, from the Experimental Farm. It shows that of a total of 3071 named varieties which have been tested, 1434 have proved hardy, and 361 half hardy, while 737 have not been planted long enough to warrant an opinion as to their hardiness. With this list as a guide, residents of Canada and our Northern States should be able to increase the number of woody plants employed for the decoration of their grounds with a fair prospect of success.

The geographic source of the principal woody plants of the German trade is discussed by Professor Drude in the last volume of the *Jahresbericht* of the Dresden Society "Flora."

In an article recently published in the *Gärtnerisches Centralblatt* and translated for the September *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club, Dr. Kuntze argues for the adoption of 1737 as the starting point for generic names in botany, and 1753 for specific names, with

the future exclusion of all publications between Linnæus's *Genera Plantarum* of the former date and his *Species Plantarum* of the latter date.

The morphology, biology, and physiology of the flower of the great Amazon water lily, *Victoria regia*, are treated by Eduard Knoch, in Heft 47 of Luerksen and Frank's *Bibliotheca Botanica*.

A paper on the structure and biology of *Cynomorium coccineum* is reprinted by Baccarini from the *Atti* of the Accademia Gioenia, of Catania.

Three new grasses from North Carolina are described by Ashe in a recent number of the *Journal* of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society.

PALEONTOLOGY.

Fossil Medusæ.¹ — A few years ago no one would have suspected that the rocks of the world could ever yield fossil jellyfish sufficient in quantity to warrant the publication of a quarto monograph of 201 pages and forty-seven plates like the present volume. Equally unlooked for would have been the fact that the oldest known fauna, the Cambrian, was to furnish a large part of the species, together with a great abundance of specimens.

Dr. Nathorst of Sweden (1881) first described Medusæ from the Cambrian, and Walcott, in 1891, suggested that the long-known *Dactyloidites asteroides* of Fitch (*sp.*), from the Cambrian slates of New York, might indicate portions of fossil jellyfish. The true affinities of the puzzling Alabama "star-cobbles" were likewise determined by Walcott in 1893, so that gradually both the subject of fossil Medusæ and the material for study grew sufficiently large to necessitate a separate treatment.

The present volume gives a full review of all the known fossil organisms that are now referred to the Medusæ, including both casts and impressions of the body or parts of the animal, and certain trails or markings, such as could be made by dragging the arms or tentacles over the mud of the sea bottom.

¹ Walcott, Charles Doolittle. Fossil Medusæ, *Monographs of the U. S. Geological Survey*, vol. xxx, pp. i-x, 1-201, Pls. I-XLVII. Washington, 1898.